CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. An apparatus for mounting a printing sleeve on a press cylinder, said sleeve having an outer shape, said apparatus comprising:

an inherently stiff annular holding element having an inner shape which is matched to the outer shape of said sleeve, said holding element having mutually facing ends defining a slit having a width;

at least one clamp which urges the ends toward each other so that the holding element can clamp the sleeve with a clamping force which is limited by the width of the slit; and

means for expanding the holding element so that the clamping force on the sleeve can be released.

2. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the width of the slit is chosen so that, when said ends form a butt joint, the holding element has an inside diameter which is less than or equal to the outer diameter of the sleeve.

3. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said at least one clamp comprises a rubber band which surrounds the holding element.

4. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said holding element has an inner wall with a depression having a vacuum connection so that the surface of the sleeve can be sucked against the inner wall.

5. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the holding element has an inner wall coated with a material which results in a high friction contact with said sleeve.

6. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said means for expanding the holding element comprises a spreading element received between said ends.

7. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a clamping band placed around the outside of the holding element, and at least one actuating device for actuating the clamping band, said actuating device being one of a mechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic, and electric actuating device.

8. An apparatus as in claim 7 further comprising a supporting ring surrounding said clamping band, said clamping band comprising one of a hydraulically and pneumatically inflatable clamping element supported on the outside by said supporting ring and exerting an inward holding force on said holding element when inflated.

9. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising first axial stops on said holding element for axially positioning the sleeve, and second axial stops for axially positioning the holding element relative to press cylinder, whereby the sleeve can be mounted in accurate page register on the press cylinder.

10. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said holding element comprises a marking which can be aligned with a seam on the sleeve, said apparatus further comprising an element which can engage a receptacle on the press cylinder so that the

seam can be aligned in a predetermined circumferential position with respect to the cylinder.

11. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising damping elements which grip the sleeve circumferentially and damp vibrations of the sleeve.

12. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a guide which cooperates with a mounting aid on a press cylinder to guide the sleeve coaxially with respect to a cylinder axis as the sleeve is fitted to the cylinder.